



**Jim Watson**  
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February 10, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

***By e-mail***

**Re: Request for federal funding for an independent evaluation of the response to the occupation of the City of Ottawa.**

Prime Minister,

On behalf of Ottawa City Council, I am writing to seek funding and participation from the Government of Canada to the City of Ottawa in support of undertaking an independent evaluation of the response to the occupation of the City of Ottawa with a view to better overall governmental agencies response to planning, coordination, communications, sharing of resources including deployment.

I wish to draw to your attention that Ottawa City Council approved the following Motion at the Special City Council meeting of February, 7, 2022:

**MOTION**

Moved by: Councillor A. Hubley  
Seconded by: Councillor T. Tierney

**WHEREAS Federal, Provincial, Municipal governments , including the National Capital Commission (NCC), and Parliamentary Protective Service should collaborate in a joint response to any national demonstrations; and**

**WHEREAS, there are always potential for inconsistencies and silos within the information sharing and dissemination practices between the numerous layers of government; and**

**WHEREAS; Municipalities such as Vancouver, Toronto and Quebec City have experienced protests of a similar nature; and**

**WHEREAS, best practices would dictate that a review of communication and information sharing protocol and dissemination be actioned post-demonstration;**

**WHEREAS, residents of the city of Ottawa have significant questions on the various aspects of the pre planning, the initial response by both police and the levels of government, the response to key events during the occupation and we believe our residents have a right to know what went wrong including what worked well; and**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Ottawa commissions an independent evaluation of the response to the occupation of the City of Ottawa with a view to better overall governmental agencies response to planning, coordination, communications, sharing of resources including deployment and report back to FEDCO by May 2022 for consideration by all levels of government prior to Canada Day; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as this demonstration was national in nature, the City of Ottawa seek funding from the Government of Canada for this review; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council request the Ottawa Police Service Board take part in this review; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report include, but not be limited to, answers to the questions included in Annex A to this Motion.**

Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Watson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Watson  
Mayor  
City of Ottawa

Attach (1) Annex A to Motion

### **Annex A to Motion approved by Ottawa City Council**

What agencies were involved in the pre-planning for this event? Who was the lead?

Why did the police and emergency response planners not anticipate the size of this force and the potential for what our residents experienced?

Why were large trucks, fuel storage and other dangerous goods allowed to enter our core and remain? Quebec City and other cities had no issues in preventing this.

Why was an injunction not filed?

Why did the Police Services Board opt to not allow City Council members into their closed meetings? Was a vote held to restrict information sharing with Council?

What was the rationale for the Police Services Board to hire the crisis communication company instead of investing in planning expertise to protect residents? What was the vote on this matter?

Given that communications were one of the biggest complaints of the occupation, the report should provide recommendations in selecting a service provider going forward and providing clear expectations that include keeping residents and council better informed.

When the Police Chief reported he did not have the resources early on and the need may have possibly been identified during the pre planning exercise as well, what actions were taken by the Police Services Board and the City of Ottawa?